

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT FDJ Plan for a Mass Meeting in Berlin

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Note: Information has indicated that the SED and its youth organization, the Freie Deutsche Jugend (FDJ), are planning a gigantic mass demonstration of FDJ members in Berlin for Wittsuntide, 28 May 1950. In analyzing reports of planning for this demonstration, it is difficult to tell what is fact and what is propaganda, but the trend of recent information is as follows:

1. To make the FDJ a more potent political force, special cadres of propaganda and agitation specialists have been set up in each Kreis and Land of the Soviet Zone. Top leaders of the new Propaganda and Agitation Troops, as they are reportedly titled, met at Beckerwitz near Wismar for a conference and training course, under Günther Schücke, chief of Mecklenburg FDJ Mass Agitation, during the last week in November 1949. At the same time, Kreis FDJ functionaries of Mass Agitation Branches met at Grünau near Berlin. At both these meetings, the SED party line on the Oder-Neisse line, National Front, unrationed goods stores (HO), and so on, was laid down, and in addition, plans for the big Whitsuntide demonstration (march on Berlin) were discussed.
2. The march will reportedly take place under the slogan: "All-Germany Meeting! The March of 600,000 on Berlin is the Signal for National Uprising!" The 600,000 expected marchers will be organized into about 800 groups of about 880 members each. Each of these groups will be led by a German graduate of the "Polit-Hochschulen" in the USSR, and Günther Schücke will be the over-all chief. Plans call for each marcher to be equipped with a uniform made up of a blue shirt, blue shorts, a "Sam Brown" belt, knapsack, canteen, bread bag, and staff (Manderstock). Rank insignia will be provided for FDJ functionaries.

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3. Preparations for handling the march are already being made by about 1000 FDJ instructors, who are reportedly in Berlin undergoing training. This 1000 will be gradually strengthened in coming months by the addition of more and more proved FDJ functionaries, until a strength of 100,000 functionaries in Berlin is reached, about four weeks before Whitsuntide.
4. Elaborate plans are being made for transporting, feeding, and housing the marchers. The actual march will begin on 21 May, a week before Whitsunday. Some 200,000 FDJ members will be taken by train to points near Berlin, where they will begin the last lap afoot and will enter the city in closed formation. Some FDJ units will come on canal boats. Motorcycle squadrons of 200 vehicles each will be formed in large numbers, and truck convoys, with trucks furnished by the state-owned enterprises and machinery-lending stations (MAS), will transport more thousands. Most of the FDJ groups will, however, march the whole way to Berlin.
5. Food is supposed to be supplied en route by the Trade Organization and consumers stores (HO and Konsum). 250,000 tents are to be erected in Berlin, and a group of 11,000 FDJ members from the building trades will go well in advance to clear bomb damage and erect buildings for headquarters and for housing more marchers. These buildings will later be turned over to the city of Berlin.
6. Protection for the marchers will be furnished by the FDJ Units of the Peoples' Police. The police units will be placed under the command of the Central Council of the FDJ during the march.
7. The exact purpose of the march and mass meetings is in doubt. Undoubtedly, the occasion will be used for the usual speeches and mass singing, but the various slogans (such as "Forward, forward to Berlin!", "All-Germany Meeting! The March of 600,000 on Berlin is the Signal for National Uprising!", and the most ominous: "Whitsuntide 1950 Means the Conquest of West Berlin!") give color to the belief that an actual "Putsch" may be intended. It is too early to say whether these war-like expressions are mere sales-talk, or whether they betray an actual intent to take over Berlin's Western sectors by sheer weight of numbers.

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